

**OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES OF THE
ELDER LAW & DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

October 5, 2017

Location: Elder and Disability Rights Section Fall Conference, DoubleTree, Bay City, Michigan. There was no option to appear by telephone.

Attendance:

- **In Person:** Michele Fuller-Urbatsch*, Sara Schimke*, Christopher Smith*, Beth Swagman*, Michael A. Mestelle*, Theresa A. Orlaske-Rich*, Kelly J. McNerney Quardokus*, David D. Sprague*, James B. Steward*, Jane A. Bassett*, Christine Caswell*, Howard H. Collens*, Jacquelyn A. Rygiel-Sprague*, Erma S. Yarbrough-Thomas*, Caroline M. Dellenbusch*, Raymond A. Harris*, Angela M. Hentkowski*, Robert D. Mannor*, Maria Messina Wiersma*.

*Indicates Council members. 19 out of 20 Council members were present.

The session was held during lunch on Thursday. Thus, in addition to Council members, dozens of section members attending the conference were also present. Capitol Services was also present.

I. Introduction. As an introduction, Chair **Michele Fuller-Urbatsch** thanked **Angela Hentkowski** and the conference committee for putting on an outstanding conference. She welcomed Judges Harrison-Suratt and Judge Tomlinson to the meeting. She thanked the current members of Council, honored the past section chairs, and thanked Capitol Services for their efforts on Council's behalf. Finally she thanked the conference's sponsors and exhibitors. Michele then asked each Committee Chair to give a summary of their activities this past year.

II. Committee Reports.

1. **Newsletter.** **Jane Bassett** thanked **Christine Caswell** for her hard work putting the newsletter together.
2. **Spring Conference.** **Harley Manela** spoke about the topics that were at the 15th Annual Spring Conference this past March at the Inn at St. John in Plymouth. Harley indicated that the next spring conference will be held on March 16, 2018, at the Inn at St. John again.
3. **Membership Committee.** **Maria Messina-Wiersma** talked about the goals of the membership committee, which are to increase

membership and participation, as well as increasing the diversity of our section.

4. **Fall Conference Committee.** **Angela Hentkowski** reported that the 2018 Fall Conference will be held on Mackinac Island at Mission Point from October 17th-19th.
 5. **Community Outreach.** **Erma S. Yarbrough-Thomas** thanked **John Payne** and **Theresa A. Orlaske-Rich** for preparing a PowerPoint that section members can use to educate professionals about elder law. She also reminded people that the Elder Section will be participating in the State Bar of Michigan's "Who Should You Trust" Committee on October 11, 2017, and encouraged attorneys who are interested to sign up.
 6. **Legislative Committee.** **Kelly Quardokus** invited section members to participate in the Committee's monthly calls. She thanked Capitol Services and encouraged attendees to give the Section their zip codes so that we can reach out to section members in key legislative districts when important legislative matters are pending.
 7. **Litigation Committee.** **Raymond Harris** reviewed the cases that the Section has been involved in this past year: In re Vanasch (protective orders); Lollar/Hegadorn/Ford (SBO Trusts); and In re Rasmer (home of modest value). Ray also mentioned that the section was invited to and will submit an amicus brief in the Mardigian case (attorney drafted an estate plan for a non-family member where he and his children were beneficiaries). Ray thanked **Jill Goodell** for her work as the committee's past chair. **Robert Mannor** then reported on the NAELA litigation fund, which currently has a balance of \$28,000. Bob asked attendees to give further this year in the hope that we can ultimately reach a balance of \$100,000.
- III. **Volunteer of the Year Award.** **Patti Dudek** introduced **Jim Steward** who was given a standing ovation as he was given the Elder and Disability Rights Section Volunteer of the Year Award.
- IV. **Outgoing Council Members.** **Michele Fuller-Urbatsch** thanked the outgoing members of Council: **Michael Mestelle**, **Jane Bassett**, and **David Sprague**. (Note: Council secretaries will be forever grateful to Michael for making it easy to remember who seconded motions.)

V. **2017-2018 Council Slate.** **Michele Fuller-Urbatsch** introduced the slate for the 2017-2018 Council on behalf of the nominating committee:

Chair: **Sara Schimke**
Chair-Elect: **Christopher Smith**
Secretary: **Beth Swagman**
Treasurer: **Kelly Quardokus**

Members: **Theresa Rich (renewal)**
Tracey Rowens
Elizabeth Vincent
Gregory Kish

Howard Collens made a motion to vote on the new Executive Council Member and Council Members. **Michael Mestelle** seconded (one last time!). The slate of candidate was unanimously approved.

VI. **Passing of the Gavel.** **Michele Fuller-Urbatsch** then passed the gavel to new Chair **Sara Schimke**. Sara thanked Michele for her service and gave some other welcoming remarks for the start of another great year.

Adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Next meeting: November 4, 2017, at the State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend St, Lansing, MI 48933 at 10 a.m.